



The driver of this car, Gussie Belle Reid, 49, of Kings Mountain was killed Friday about 1:40 p.m. when it collided head-on with a car driven by David S. Adams Jr., 24. He was listed in critical condition. Mrs. Reid's death was the first on Cleveland County highways this year. (Photo by Jim Belt.)

## More Incidents Monday

# Police Restore Order To Tense KMHS

Text by Rodney Dodson  
Photos by Lem Lynch

Two more students were arrested at Kings Mountain High School Monday as police patrolled the campus, attempting to restore order.

One student was charged with assault on a teacher, and another with disorderly conduct. Another student, David Lee Bell, 16, of 207 Parrish Drive, charged with possession of alcoholic beverages Friday was permanently expelled.

Classes resumed at Kings Mountain High School Friday morning amid an atmosphere of police and half-filled classrooms, following a bitter racial confrontation Thursday which resulted in the injury of eight students and the dismissal of school.

Principal Jake Atkinson addressed the student body, 745 of which were absent, via intercom calling for a return to normalcy.

Members of the Kings Mountain Police Department and County Sheriff's Department manned the corridors to insure the safety of returning students.

In a special meeting of the board of education following the outbreak Thursday, Police Chief Thomas McDevitt told the board, "If you want to open that school tomorrow you can open it, we'll see to it that you can open it." Superintendent Donald Jones agreed, "These few do not have the right to interfere with those who want to learn." It was also feared by school officials that the disruptive elements would meet somewhere else and polarize if classes did not resume Friday.

Tension still boiled over into the community, however, as the police received several complaints of bottles being thrown at cars Thursday night.

At the meeting with the school board Thursday, Principal Jake Atkinson attempted to relate the violent incidents which occurred earlier in the day.

"The tension started Monday night, and stems farther back than that... and led up to two fights earlier Thursday morning." He described these incidents as involving a couple of black and white students each.

As a result of these incidents, the principal expelled one student for three days and one for 10 days.

According to Atkinson's report, these incidents led up to the 10:37 activity period during which, "something happened to the extent I've never seen happen before... the whites gathered on one side and the blacks on the other side... I went out into the commons area, then it started building up, the groups polarized—about 10 yards away from each other and neither group made a move to go back to class... it kept building up—then we made a fatal mistake... we sent four (white) boys to the parking to check to see if anyone was bothering cars, and some blacks turned to follow them. The white boys started yelling, and I went to see about it—then it took place... chairs, bottles—where they came from I don't know—I saw one boy with a knife—there may have been more—some belt buckles, kicking, and punching."

Atkinson said then he and three or four faculty members descended on the mob scene and tried to break it up, and called the police. "They got there in a hurry, but the whole fight took place in not more

than 10 minutes." The fighting was said to be all over by the time the police arrived. School was dismissed and the building cleared by 11:15.

"It was vicious!", related the principal, "some kids were completely out of their heads." He reported that there were maybe 25-50 students actually doing the fighting.

"I asked the kids what caused it," Atkinson continued, "they said I should have sent home both sides of the earlier fighters. Parents suggest I have a meeting with parents. I think we really need to meet with some of these parents."

Superintendent Donald Jones interjected that "the unfortunate thing about a thing like this is that blacks and whites are put on opposite sides, and this is just not the case."

Atkinson was visibly upset as he assessed the repercussions of the incident. "One girl who has as many white friends as black broke down completely... those are the kids I really feel for. I even feel for these militants—they are on both sides—who have been so filled with hate they can't see anything else."

Atkinson admitted to the school board that it was a possible error in judgement on his part for not calling the police sooner.

Board chairman George Mauney asked Atkinson about a pistol reported in the

to serve a lot of them."

Superintendent Jones raised the issue of taking out a warrant for the students displaying the knife and pistol.

The board authorized the school to see that every student get a copy of the state law forbidding weapons on the school ground punishable by not more than \$500 or 6 months imprisonment.

When school resumed Friday morning, each student entering the building was handed a copy stating the regulation.

In the aftermath of the fighting, the tile floor of the commons area just outside the cafeteria was dotted with blood stains. A good size puddle of blood, ground in by passing footprints, was left.

Chief McDevitt said he saw several bloody chair legs. Atkinson reported that chairs were broken apart and used as weapons.

One school bus which left the school when dismissed hit a pickup truck and damaged it.

Some students were searched by teachers, and police checked cars and lockers for weapons. A variety of weapons were confiscated by police, including "picks", razor-edge knives, lead pipes, and pistols.

Gunzo Femster, 17, of Rt. 2, was charged Friday with violation of prohibition laws and resisting arrest. James M.



Grim aftermath—blood stains dot the floor in one area where fighting took place.

school. He replied that there was a pistol in the school yesterday (Wednesday) and it was confiscated, and the student sent home. Mauney then asked about a report of "lots of other pistols." Atkinson's reply was that there was nothing to substantiate that report, but he did say "a lot of those kids carry weapons... if we're going to serve warrants to kids for carrying weapons, we'd better be prepared

McDaniel, 18, of 615 Ridge St. and Lenuel Lovelace, 17, of Route 1, Grover, were charged with possession of weapon at a public institution. Charles Logan, 16, of Route 1, Grover, was charged with threatening an officer.

Police Chief McDevitt reported after a stay at the school Monday that he believes everything is under control now, but he will keep some men out there this week.



All eyes on the principal... as he appeared before school board Thursday.

## Teer, Bates, Scism New UF Officers

At the United Fund awards banquet at the Royal Villa Friday night, Marvin Teer was elected President, Bill Bates, Campaign Chairman, and Becky Scism, Secretary-Treasurer.

New one-year directors are John Cheshire, Bill Grisson, S.K. Peeler, Mrs. Frances Sincov.

Two-year directors for 1972-73 are James E. Herndon Jr., Mrs. Eoline Hord, Grady Howard, Don Parker.

Directors for 1972, 73 and 74 are Mrs. Vernon Crosby, Tom Tate, J.C. Bridges, Ben H. Goforth Jr.

Outgoing President Donald Jones was named ex-officio member of the board of directors.

Rev. Frank Shirley gave the invocation with the Kings Mountain High School choir giving a 20-minute music program.

Woody Ralston, director of North Carolina's United Fund installed the new officers, and Marvin Teer presented awards to the division chairmen, and industrial and commercial awards.

Special division chairmen awards went to Mickey Bell, commercial division; Bill Bates, school division; Larry Morrow, commercial; Mrs. Charles Adams, professional; Mrs. Grady Howard, advanced gifts division; Mrs. Scoop Peeler, correspondence division.

Company awards went to Lithium Corp., Monsanto, Dicey Mills, Foote Mineral, Evans Products, Duplex, Spangler Ready Mix, King Mills, Burlington, Kinder Mfg., Mauney Mills.

Commercial awards were presented to Griffin Drug, Bridges Hardware, Plonk Bros., Kings Mountain Drug, First Union National Bank, Patterson Oil, Harris Funeral Home, Plonk Oil, Home Savings and Loan, Kings Mountain Savings and Loan, Roses.

Kyle Smith and Larry Morrow were presented special awards. Southern Bell and Duke Power were presented with correspondence awards.

Employee awards were presented to employees of Monsanto, Mauney Hosiery, Carolina Throwing, Sadie Cotton Mills, Lithium Corp., Burlington Mills, Kinder Mfg., and Oxford.

The city school were awarded for 100 percent participation in every category in the divisions of Grover, Kings Mountain High, North, West, Early Childhood, Maintenance Division.

President Donald Jones, and new President Marvin Teer were presented awards by the North Carolina United Fund director, Woody Ralston, and Jones presented an award and gift to Becky Scism for her work throughout the year.



NEW OFFICERS— Elected as officers of the 1972 United Fund at Friday night's banquet were Bill Bates, Campaign Director; Becky Scism, Secretary-Treasurer; and Marvin Teer, President. (Mirror Photo by Lem Lynch)

## Movie May Feature Cycles, Stunt Men

According to Reb Wiesener, plans are continuing to shape-up for the production of the movie to be filmed in Kings Mountain this Summer, using local actors and scenery.

Jim Arp, local radio personality, and Carl Wiesener, Jr. are said to be planning to cut a couple of records to be used in the movie. Carl (Huey) Wiesener's band will reportedly be doing 90 percent of the

music, and the company is now looking for a recording studio, hoping to use a scene of a live recording session in the movie.

Wiesener adds that a scene with motorcycles and stunt men may be involved, at least at this point he says motorcycles are being considered.

Everything has been written into the script except for some connecting scenes. Four Fellows Inc., the producers, are still shooting for mid-summer as a target date to begin filming.

**Inside!**  
An Interview with Kings Mountain High Students. See Page 3.

## Crawford Begins Job At KM Park

Mr. Donald Crawford, Kings Mountain native, has transferred to Kings Mountain National Military Park from the U.S. Postal Service. Prior to his transfer, Don had been with the Kings Mountain and Denver, N.C. Post Offices for 22 years. His new position with the National Park Service as Administrative Clerk include many varied duties. His responsibilities include preparations of requisitions, purchase orders, imprest fund vouchers, timekeeper, and other fiscal and accounting procedures.

## Pat Taylor In Town Today

Lt. Gov. Pat Taylor will visit Cleveland County today, March 1, to kick off his local campaign for Governor of North Carolina. Local supporters of Taylor have planned a full day of campaigning for the Democratic gubernatorial candidate.

Interest to meet the people of Cleveland County and to discuss with them the issues of the campaign during his Wednesday visit.

Taylor's Cleveland County campaign staff have announced the following schedule of events for the Lieutenant Governor. The day's activities will begin at Taylor for Governor Headquarters, 117 North Morgan Street, Shelby, where the public is invited to join Lt. Gov. Taylor for coffee and doughnuts between 8:45 and 9:15 a.m. Taylor will then tour Cleveland County making the following stops: Hunter School (9:30 - 10:00 a.m.), Cleveland Tech. (10:15-10:45), Stamey Stores, Fallston (11:15-11:45), Pendleton's Barber Shop, Lawndale (12:00 - 12:30), lunch (The public is invited to enjoy ham biscuits with the Lt. Governor at Lutz Apple Orchard, Belwood, 12:45-1:30 p.m.) Ed White's Store, Casar (1:45-2:00 p.m.), Polkville (2:15-2:45—Lattimore (3:00-3:30 p.m.), Boiling Springs (3:34-4:15) Kings Mountain (4:30-5:00 p.m.) at City Hall. Mr. Taylor will be leaving the county at approximately 5:30 p.m. in route to Charlotte.



PAT TAYLOR

Lt. Gov. Taylor expressed a deep in-